

but the papers reported that, after hearing testimony, the jury and coroner concluded that “the said deceased came to their deaths by gunshot wounds inflicted by some person or persons to this jury unknown.” Ten people were called to testify to the jury regarding the events of the violence on the tenth and the causes of death for the men. Among those called were Mildred Clinton, Josh Halsey’s sister, who had identified him for the authorities when they viewed his body the previous day. An outside correspondent noted that the testimony was “couched in profoundly vague terms,” and the resulting jury verdict was “justified by the evidence” presented.<sup>59</sup>

The *News and Observer* had a correspondent in the city who observed that he had “seen no more grewsome sight than was that presented the morning after the fight.” He explained that he watched as men in an undertaker’s office on Second Street made wooden coffins for 6 men. He described the scene as the corpses of the dead men, clad in their working clothes, lay on the floor near the carpenters and “around them stood negro women with sad faces.” Two days after the riot, the *Charleston News and Courier* reported that “several unpretentious funeral processions in the negro quarters were reminders of the deadly work of the Winchesters.”<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> The testimony of the various men and women for the inquest jury as printed in the newspapers mirrored the details provided in the description of the riot in the previous chapter. Official records of the Coroner’s Office for 1898 have not survived. *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 13, 1898; *News and Courier* (Charleston) as quoted in the *Messenger*, November 15, 1898.

<sup>60</sup> The identities of several of the dead were widely circulated although one Wilmington paper wrote that it was rumored that “not one of the negroes who were killed was a native of the state” but came to the city from South Carolina before the election. *News and Observer* (Raleigh), November 13, 1898; *News and Courier* (Charleston) as quoted in the *Wilmington*

In response to the call by doctors, representatives of the Red Cross and others traveled through the city late in the day and into the eleventh to tend to the needs of the wounded and take them to the hospital.<sup>61</sup> Several black men who were taken to the hospital were identified. Dan Wright, riddled with at least 13 bullets and left to lie in the street, was taken to the hospital late in the afternoon of the riot and died from his wounds the next day. Taken to the hospital on the eleventh were George Henry Davis (shot 6 times), George Miller (shot 2 times), John Dow (shot 2 times), Alfred White, William Lindsay, Sam McFarland (shot 4 times and died on November 12), and John R. Davis (shot in kidneys and back). On the twelfth, John Brown or J. William Bryan, was admitted with 3 bullet wounds in his left leg and one in his right.<sup>62</sup> Dr. Robert Zachary, resident at the Wilmington City Hospital, gave his colleagues insight into his job as it was affected by the riot when, in 1899, he spoke to the North Carolina Medical Society Convention about his treatments of gunshot victims. His short report of the treatment given men wounded in the riot described treatment and wounds for 2 white and 12 black men who were admitted to the hospital on November 10. Zachary observed that “all except the two white men were shot in the back” and that one of the white men had been shot in the foot. All of the men admitted that day recovered except 2 black men who died soon after arriving at the hospital. Zachary prided himself on the fact that “twelve of the fourteen will perhaps live to tell their grandchildren of their experience in the

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*Messenger*, November 15, 1898; *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), November 12, 1898.

<sup>61</sup> *Wilmington Messenger*, November 14, 1898.

<sup>62</sup> The records conflict on the name of this man *Wilmington Messenger*, November 14, 1898.